THE International Collector

and Victor Stamp News

January, 1913

Volume 2
Number 11

Editor and Publisher
Gordon H. Crouch
911 Dovercourt Rd.
TORONTO - - CANADA

Query?

Are you an artist, or inclined that way? Here is your opportunity. I want a sketch of a suitable cover design. The reading matter to be the same as shown on this cover, but, of course, rearranged. It is not necessary to give me a finished drawing merely a sketch will do. I offer you either a cash prize of $3.00 or a set of high-class stamps, value $5.00 Now then, if you can do anything in this line, now's your time.

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COMBINED WITH

"The Victor Stamp News"

AND

"The Dominion Philatelist"

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

G. H. CROUCH 911 Dovercourt Road

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VOLUME 2 JAN. 1913 NUMBER 11

YE EDITORIAL POINT OF VIEW

The Editor has been favored by P. M. Mann with a copy of a work entitled "The Postage Stamps of Holland," written by J. B. Leavy. It deals in a detailed, yet very interesting manner, with the minor varieties of the earlier issues of this most popular country. The work is superbly illustrated, with both line and half-tone engravings, and goes with fullest details into the time of issue, characteristics and cancellations of the stamps of the Netherlands.

Space will not permit of extended review of this important publication, but after studying it, the Editor recommends his readers to send 50c to the publisher, Mr. Mann, for a copy of this production. 1708 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A. will get him alright.

At last there has been a stirring among the dry bones. The Post Master General in the House of Commons a few days ago, made mention to the effect that he was seriously considering the advisability or feasibility of inaugurating a Parcel-Post System for Canada.

I suppose that the progressive move made by our Americans Cousins has stirred up our Government along this line. And it would most certainly sound strange, that if in a land which is popularly supposed to be governed by "The Interests," there can be evolved such an effective Post Parcel System as is in operation at present, surely in this young country of ours, which is hardly old enough, yet, to be controlled by anybody, our Wise Acres so called, who guide us in our leading strings, should surely be able out of the depths of their

wisdom and the profundity of their knowledge, to organize and operate an efficient Parcel Post.

This of course, will be fought by our Express Companies and Railway Interests and our Post Master General will certainly need the courage of his convictions to withstand them. Here's wishing him success.

I might say that I would like to receive any clippings or original articles from subscribers, pertaining to stamp matters. Your help is needed to make this magazine our magazine. I am now taking steps to put it on a solid footing and require the active assistance of my subscribers in the way of contributing bright, readable articles. As an inducement to you I make this unusual offer, as follows:- Each month I will give two prizes for the two best articles on any stamp subject. Such article to contain not more than 500 words and to be written on one side of the paper only; typewritten if possible, although this is not necessary. I guarantee that the prizes I give will consist of some of my duplicates and to be good stamps cataloging from 4c each and upwards. First prize will be $2.00 value, and Second prize $1.50 value. Here is your chance to earn some good stamps for yourself and also help me to make my magazine a success.

Notice inside cover page for Drawing Competition. What can you do? Anything?

Remember our Advertising Department. I think it one of the most important parts of this magazine. Read my guarantee: send in your order to the firms advertising, but remember to say "I saw your Ad. in the International Collector." You'll receive better treatment and your kindness will be appreciated.

To the Readers of the "International Collector"

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have a proposition to make to you. How many of you are interested in stamp collecting, and how many of you are willing to band yourselves together and form a National Stamp Society, or better still, an International Stamp Society, as it is possible to give members in the U.S.A., Mexico, Cuba and elsewhere?

What we want is a Society which can be worked on the Mutual Co-operation, each help the other, instead of a Graft machine. What we want is an Association of Collectors, real stamp lovers, not a Society of pikers, substitutes and approval sheet swipers. I wish all who are interested, to send a postal card declaring their wish to be one to help form such a society, and if I find that there are enough Philatelists around, who take an interest in forming such a Society, then the start will be made right away.

I may say that we could have a Sale Circuit, Ex. Circuit, a New Issue Department and an Official Organ in the "I. C.," which I may venture to say will soon be enlarged to the size of other contemporaries. Our friend, Crouch, will attend to that part of the business.

There are plenty of Collectors in Canada who have also been Accumulators, and one object of the Society would be to get those Accumulations changed around as it were. Somebody has got some stamps that you have not got, and you have stamps somebody else wants. Let us get moving those stamps around and we can do good to others and ourselves.

Now, after you have read, marked, learned and inwardly digested this, make up your mind to make one to start an International Stamp Society. Send your name, and above all, Do It Now. Last, but not least. "No Pikers need apply," as they will get turned down at the very first application.

Address, H. V. B., c/o International Collector, 911 Dovercourt Road, Toronto, Ontario.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S ANNUAL

The 1913 edition of this ever popular production is better than ever. In fact it is so full of good things that it is like an egg—nothing in it but meat, and mighty good at that. To attempt to do anything like justice to this production would be impossible, without using up more than my entire allotted space.

A list of its contents might seem somewhat dry, but some of them are so important and interesting to all, that I give them here. There are 22 seperate articles and departments, all profusely and artistically illustrated in a manner which seems out of the question to us, on this side of the "herring pond."

A particularly interesting article on a little known subject, is that of "Greek Stamps Used Abroad," this being almost rivalled in interest by the notes on the "Stamp Market of 1912." Then there is the "Postal Establishments of the German Colonies;" "Stamp Books of the Year;" "Early American Posts" and many other equally valuable contributions, ending with highly informative and interesting lists of "Philatelic Societies of the World;" "Stamp Trade Directory;" "A Philatelic Press Guide" and a truly monumental "Philatelic Literary Index," where the reader can find alphabetically arranged articles, which appeared on various subjects during the past year and the publication containing same.

In conclusion I can simply say that if every reader does not send 32c to the "Stamp Collector's Annual," 44 Fleet St., E. C. London, England, for a copy of this Annual, he will be robbing himself of untold pleasures. I might say for the convenience of Canadian Philatelists, I have a small supply of these on hand for the same price. (See advertisment elswhere in this issue.)

YE PAPERS RE-PRINTED

PHILATELIC NOTES

Translated from T. Champion's "Bulletin Mensuel."

As we expected of French Colonial surcharges are in great demand; unfortunately, the number is relatively reduced and all the collectors shall certainly not receive satisfaction.

The Minster's Agency registered the request for 150,000 series, will only deliver about 13,000 series.

On our part although our business with this Agency is very large each year, we only had 64 series instead of 2,500 as ordered. We will then be obliged to buy from agencies in order to satisfy all our clients.

CHINA

Following the article published in our last Bulletin on the stamps of this country of this country of Provisional Neutrality, we are in a position to give our readers other information borrowed from "Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal."

"At the beginning of February last, the stamps issued in 1898-1910 were re-stamped in using four Chinese Characters "Ling Shih Chung Li," signifying Provisional Neutrality. These stamps were prepared in the Chinese Imperial Post-Office. A certain quantity was sent to Fou-Tcheou to replace the stock which was becoming exhausted and sold to the public during 2 days. The Foreign-Minister of Affairs of China, Dr. Wang Chung Hui having objected to the use of the term Provisional Neutrality, a telegram was sent to Fou Tcheou asking to withdraw stamps that were in circulation.

Then, they were vertically re-stamped with the four following characters Chung Hua Ming Kuo, which signi-

fy "Chinese Republic," sent to Nanking and Han Keou on March 21st and sold during the short period of two hours, as the Provisional President, Dr. Sun Yat Sen sent a telegram to the President Yuan Shih Kai asking to withdraw from circulation all stamps carrying the restamped term "Provisional Neutrality."

The following table gives the number of stamps issued.

Values	Quantity sent to different Post-Offices	Quantity returned	Sold to the Public	Quantity having been used for Postage	Quantity into the of different buyers
1c	980	None	980	425	565
3c	600	"	600	230	370
*7c	?	?	?	?	?
16c	75	None	75	38	37
*50c	?	?	?	?	?
$1	96	"	96	42	54
$2	96	40	56	29	27
$5	212	180	32	12	20

*The Stanley Gibbons' paper does not give any details on these two values.

As you will note, the issue will be exceeding limited, therefore, few collectors will be able to show these stamps in their collections.

Ægean

We must rectify the article published in our last Bulletin, the copies advertised for the Islands of Ægean Sea which is occupied by Italy, being officially to the number of thirteen and composed of seven values 2, 5, 10, 15, 25, 40 and 50, with the addition of the names of Islands Rodi, Caso, Lipso, Piscopi, Nisiros, Scarpanto, Leros, Karki, Stampalia, Simi, Cos, Calimno and Patmos.

We are aware that these series are ready for delivery: shall we see them circulated by the Italian Post-Office of Ægean? We may doubt it, as Italy has promised to evacuate these Islands: we are also aware of the fact that one of these offices will be permanently closed. On the other hand, the rules of re-established capitulations between Turkey and Italy leave the latter free to establish Post-Offices whenever she finds them necessary.

Politics and the Parcel Post

Many western papers are calling upon the government to give the people of this country the boon of a parcel post service. The Brandon Daily News (Lib.) makes bold to say that it is the influence of the railway companies which prevents parcel post being established. That the present government is under the domination of the railway companies appears to The News to be evident because of the C. P. R. melon and the failure to inaugurate a parcel post system.

But if The News is right in its contention, and The World is not prepared to believe that it is, what inference is to be drawn from the inaction of Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, who was postmaster-general for five years? Was Mr. Lemieux chloroformed by railway influence? The Winnipeg Telegram says he was, and the railway influences prevented the Laurier government from establishing the parcel post.

The Telegram, quite aptly, says that "it is not one of the rights of the railway companies to stand between the people and the benefits of the parcel post." Assuredly not. But are we to infer that these influences, so potent with the former government, have not yet been routed? Postmaster-General Pelletier can demonstrate to the people his freedom from railway restraint by establishing the parcels post service which his predecessor failed to establish.

Meanwhile Mr. Lemieux cannot afford to rest under the evident imputation, editorilly expressed by so prominent a Liberal Newspaper as The Brandon Daily News.

THE PUBLISHER of this Magazine wishes to exchange stamps with all countries either common or rare: Register all valuable letters. Unquestioned References if desired.

YE KICKER'S KOLUMN

A "bloated specialist," Alfonso, is a collector who has more money than brains.

It's about as difficult for a backward collector to talk when he has something to say, as it is for some "windbags" to keep silent at their Stamp Club, when the meeting is "thrown open for discussion."

Some philatelists never parade their ignorance at an Annual Convention, because they never say anything.

Patience isn't a virtue: it's a necessity, especially when you listen to some "fat-headed" stamp collector expatiate on his fine, large collection, you know.

If you have a kick coming; put your whole sole into it. I do, you bet.

Old Skin-flint has a bad attack of "nervous prostration" every time his boy wants a quarter to buy some stamps. Miserable old grouch!

Reminds me of a fussy house-keeper who objected to her son leaving those "miserable old stamps" all over the house. Foolish woman! Better to have pieces of paper around than "butts."

THIS MEANS YOU, when answering any advertisement in this magazine kindly state "I saw your Ad. in the International Collector." This will help yourself, the advertiser and the Publisher, thank you!

The Collector who studies his own collection even though it be small, is really ahead of the one who is merely accumulating, without knowing his stamps.

It is best to build up your collection by using your own judgment and discretion, and not so much on what others are doing. Exercise your individuality.

The man who is making his collection with an eye to selling it at a profit, loses some of the real joy of a philatelist, I think.

Nevertheless, you should put some money into stamps, wherein you receive full value.

In buying stamps—pay as you go—but don't go too often or you'll owe your Grocer or Butcher, maybe.

Probably one of the hardest things to convince "a rank out-sider" is that a man can get enjoyment and profit from mere bits of coloured paper, "as he calls it." But when this same man gets "on the inside" he understands the fascination all right.

How to be happy though married, forget how to flirt and get your "other half" interested in your collection.

Occasionally we meet men who are so anxious to be important that they magnify a circular letter from somebody's campaign headquarters into a hot telegram to come at once for a personal conference. Something like a certain member of our Local Stamp Club, he's always trying to get placed on a committee, but we all know him, and squelch him good and proper, and thereby prove ourselves "benefactors to the human race."

Death of Mr. L'Estrange Ewen.—The new issue collector in particular, and the world of philately in general is the poorer by the death of Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen, the brilliant editor of Ewen's Weekly Stamp News. Mr. Ewen started dealing in stamps at the early age of thirteen with a capital of £13. In a little more than twenty years he advanced to one of the foremost positions in the ranks of the dealers, his new issue ramifications being world-wide and almost universal. By the time he was twenty the deceased was almost the British specialist, and ten years ago his business was turned over to a limited company with a capital of £20,000. He was also a great linguist and traveller, and was the hero defendant of one of the biggest stamp law suits we have yet seen. His death after a long and painful illness, at the lamentable early age of thirty six, is greatly to be regretted.

Saxony Stamp Errors.—Errors of the stamps of Saxony are few and of great rarity, as the old-time lynx-eyed officials were quick in discovering anything defective or erroneous, with the result that errors which passed their notice were in the colour of the paper upon which the stamps were printed. The well-known error was the ½ neugr., block on blue instead of grey, with the portrait of King Frederich August: whilst a less popular error was the 5 neugr. (King Johann) in brown instead of red. An extremely interesting specimen (used) of the ½ neugr. has, according to the Postage Stamp, now been brought to light, on which the value (½) in the left-hand side of the oval has been doubly printed, so the value in the oval reads: ½½. The value in the right-hand oval is normal. As the error is very obvious, and has not long been discovered, it will not be surprising if it turns out to be a rarity of the first class.

NEXT

Once when the new moon glistened
So slender in the west,
I looked across my shoulder
And a wild wish stirred my breast.
—Rose Terry Cooke.

Once when the full moon glistened,
As full moons often do,
I leaned against a lamp post
And could swear that I saw two.
—Springfield Union

Once as the new moon glistened
Like a torch for youth's romance,
I sat upon an ant hill,
And the ants got in my pants.
—Houston Post.

Once as the new moon glistened
And every star was hid,
I wished across my shoulder
And, next day, I lost my job.
—Chicago Record-Herald.

Once when the new moon glistened
And every star was hid,
I asked a girl to wed me
And—drat the luck!—she did.
Toronto Star.

Once when the new moon glistened
And dazzled me by its glare,
I lost my Stamp Collection,
Ye gods! How I then did swear.

For the reason that new moon glistened
I discovered to my regret,
Was that on my way home from the stamp club,
I got outside of too much "wet."

A Reprint from "The Post Card Monthly"
BY A. C. ROESSLER

It will be remembered the King Edward type of the 2c denomination was put out unperforated, although there was no demand for the stamp in that condition. The purpose of this was to nullify the philatelic value of an unfinished sheet which blew out of the window at the government print shop at Ottawa. The collector who found the sheet (rather odd he should be passing the building at the psychological moment?) refused, it is said, to return the sheet, whereupon the government decided to issue hundreds of sheets similar to the unfinished pane. It is worth noting that the post-office department used every effort to put the imperforate into circulation in an endeavor to fully flood the market. Dealers were notified that stamps would be sent upon receipt of remittance and postage and registration was paid by the government.

The above is an example of how a government should conduct its postal affairs. Now examine the case of the Gilbert and Ellice group of islands in the mid-Pacific Ocean. Practically unknown and commercially worthless, this little batch of coral reefs has played the stamp game from every point. It has a small population—only 200 people who can read or write. Controlled by Great Britain, the majority of the islanders are French, in the employ of a potash mining company. It is safe to presume very few stamps are required. Still, it was necessary to issue two sets within seven weeks, and a third series is on tap. Each set has a face value approximately 50c, so that collectors who endeavor to collect all varieties are taxed $1.50 to maintain this little group. Bad business? But wait. The postmaster decided a bonus of 10% could be added to each sale and accordingly as Resident Commissioner, he made a ruling that he could, as postmaster, make the additional charge mentioned. A good plot for a musical comedy. The extra fee was to be charged to the "miscellaneous revenue" fund, an elastic affair regulated to suit the whim. The two low values, face values, 3c, were not sold to collectors. Instead, a dealer was permitted to sell them at 500 times 3c, so that the stamp man, instead of paying the $1.50, paid from $10 to $30 for the first issue, while the story of the second series is an unfinished tale.

YE PESSIMIST'S PAGE

If some stamp exchanges won't keep their promises to their correspondents; then they ought to keep their promises to themselves.

A stamp sharper is a keen man, with a dull conscience.

A man may easily mistake his prejudice for principle: so your own bias for the stamps of certain countries does not necessarily mean that you are right.

A certain Stamp Dealer advertises that "he does not dance the can-can, but can sell stamps," etc. Isn't it about time that a long-suffering public should not have to see such "rot" masquerading as clever advertising? Mr. Dealer, just you tell the readers in plain, simple words, your stamp news. Believe me, they'll appreciate it, and you will reap the benefit.

I am inclined to feel just a trifle languid, when I hear of a certain collector, who is always ready to tell others how to arrange their collection: while his looks similar to a "Philatelic Irish Stew."

Indians formerly scalped their enemies, now some stamp collectors try to skin their friends.

A collector I know would be more truthful if he'd talk less.

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